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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/810,285	03/26/2004	Tae-jung Lee	SAM-0318DIV	9261

7590 01/12/2005
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EXAMINER

LUU, CHUONG A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2825

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/810,285

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Examiner

Chuong A Luu

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/114,215.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/26/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In the specification, page 2, line 7, "40" should be changed to "41".

Appropriate correction is required.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Statutory Basis

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The Rejections

Claims 1, 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter APA).

APA discloses a semiconductor device with

(1) a substrate (3) which includes a base layer (10), a buried oxide layer (15), and a semiconductor layer (20);

an isolation layer (7) which is formed in a trench that defines an active region on the semiconductor layer (20) (see page 3, lines 15-18),

wherein the trench comprises a first region (B) having a depth less than the thickness of the semiconductor layer (20) and a second region (C) having a depth as much as the thickness of the semiconductor layer (20) (see Figures 2A-2B), and

wherein the isolation layer (70) includes an oxide layer (32) and a nitride liner (60) that are sequentially formed along the surface of the trench and a dielectric layer (65) that fills the trench (see Figures 2A-2E);

(3) wherein the oxide layer (32) is thicker in the first region (B) than in the second region (C) (see Figure 2B);

(7) further comprising a transistor (80) formed in the active region (A) (see Figure 1).

Claims 2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter APA).

APA does not explicitly disclose the depth of the first region is less than the depth of the second region by 200 to 1500Å; the oxide layer is thicker in the first region

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than in the second region by 1 to 50 nm; the thickness of the oxide layer in the second region is in the range of 3 to 30 nm; the thickness of the nitride liner is in the range of 3 to 20 nm. However, the depth of the first region is less than the depth of the second region by 200 to 1500Å; the oxide layer is thicker in the first region than in the second region by 1 to 50 nm; the thickness of the oxide layer in the second region is in the range of 3 to 30 nm; the thickness of the nitride liner is in the range of 3 to 20 nm being within the range is considered to be obvious. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the the depth of the first region is less than the depth of the second region; the oxide layer is thicker in the first region than in the second region; the thickness of the oxide layer in the second region is; the thickness of the nitride liner of APA's device within the range as claimed for the purpose of providing for reduced power consumption and increase operational speed, and it also has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art and it is noted that the applicant does not disclose criticality in the ranges claimed. In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233 (see MPEP j 2144.05).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chuong A Luu whose telephone number is (571) 272-1902. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:15-2:45).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1907. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Chuong Anh Luu
Examiner